

A

# REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE BRITISH NATION.

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Thursday, May 31. 1711.

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In my Last I shew'd the Episcopal People in Scotland, the shortest way to restore Episcopacy, and indeed, the only way (*Viz.*) That they must first restore the Pretender — — — That there is no other way, that the present Queen or Parliament will not, nor canst do it, I made plain, neither can any Revolution Prince ever bring it to pass, tho' they were inclin'd to it, and endeavour'd it with their utmost Power.

I hinted to you how much the Episcopal Dissenters are convinc'd of the Truth of this, and that therefore they are as naturally, and by consequence of the thing, all

Jacobite, as are the Roman Catholicks themselves, nay, in some Cases more; nor is it any Slander to say, That the generality of the Episcopal People in Scotland are Jacobites.

But shall I give this a Turn they do not expect — — — What do they mean, who argue and endeavour to perswade us, that Episcopacy is the general Inclination of the People in Scotland? And what can they imply, when they would have the Queen believe it? Do they not imply, that the generality of the People in Scotland, are for the Pretender? — — — Is not this very comfortable News for them, to tell

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the Queen, and a strong Argument to move the Queen to befriend them?

Now let those People who insist upon it, that the generality of the People of Scotland are Episcopal, come to this Point, let them stand forth, and tell me how many, or what proportion of that Number are for the Queen, of all the Meetings that are now in Scotland: Let them tell me, how many of their Preachers take the Oaths, or pray for the Queen——and of those that do, how do their Hearers forsake them? How many that would, dare not, and own they dare not, because their People would not hear them if they did?

Are these your Arguments why the Queen should restore Episcopacy in Scotland? Is this your Kindness to your Queen? Eye! Eye! You that pretend to Loyalty and Zeal for the Queen, never let it be said you would set up Her profest'd Enemies, that disown Her Title, and pray every Day for restoring a contemptible Pretender——It is plain, the Queen has no Friends in Scotland but the Presbyterians, no willing Subjects but them; none that pray for Her, and will fight for Her but them, and yet you are for pulling them down; Her Majesty is much beholden to you, but the Queen knows better things, and has now repeated Her Royal Assurances to the Assembly, that they shall be maintain'd and protect'd by Her in all their Privileges and Constituted Rights.

What Fools are they that delude the Episcopal People in Scotland, that promise them Impossibilities and Absurdities? And how foolish are they that are thus imposed upon to believe it? Can any thing be more hurtful to the Episcopal People themselves, than the madness of their Friends? Does it not expose them? Does it not open the Eyes of the People of all Britain against them? Does it not confute all that has ever been said in their behalf? ——An honest Jacobite of my Acquaintance hearing the Particulars of the Rabble at Old Deer, and of the Treatment of the Minister at Gearloch, and seeing the Originals which I shewed him, and which were too

convincing to be objected against——said —— I did not think our Friends in Scotland had had so little Policy. Why, says he, this is the way to ruin their own Cause, no Body can speak for them, no Body can espouse them, if they go on thus. I wonder they should be no wiser, says he.

And truly this Gentleman was in the right of it; the Episcopal Interest in Scotland has been a long Time endeavouring to shroud themselves under the favour of the Government, lying at Her Majesty's Feet for Protection and Support, as they profess the same Principles, and espouse the same Church in which Her Majesty was educated: They have endeavou'rd to move Her Majesty's Compassion, as a People persecuted, injur'd, maltreated, and persecuted by the Presbyterians; and in this Capacity they have represented themselves, and recommended themselves to the Charity and Concern of the Church of England. Nor while this was their appearance, have they been altogether without Success, insomuch, that in spight of all the Presbyterians, or their Advocates, could do or say, or any Body else for them: We were inclin'd to pity them, believ'd they were hardly used, and persecuted, I mean. We the generality, for the enquiring Part knew otherwise before.

But now when they appear in Arms against the Civil Peace, when they tell the Queen, If the Establish'd Church Ministers come to plant in their Churches, She must send Her Army to do it; when they fight the Magistrates, rabble the Ministers, and use all manner of Violence and Barbarities, in defiance of Law, Government, and the Queen——What is the Consequence? Alas! this undoes all their Work again; no Body can espouse such People. Now all the Pretences to being persecuted fall of Course; for it appears, they put the greatest Violence possible upon the Consciences of the poor People, who are their Slaves, and make them insult the Ministers, whom they would rather hear preach; and make them oppose the planting the vacant Churches with Presbyterian Ministers,

sters, tho' at the same time they desire it above all things. They could have done nothing so much against themselves as this ; nothing so effectually to silence their Friends, and open the Mouths of their Enemies.

Besides, pray what could be done more effectually to deprive them of the Queen's Favour, which they not a little depended upon ? How can they expect Her Majesty can favour them on one Hand, and be oblig'd to punish them on the other ?

What Sovereign can espouse or shelter a Body of Her Subjects with any Satisfaction, when every Assize, or Circuit, they come under Process for flying in the Face of Her Authority, breaking the Peace and Rebellion against Her Laws, as well as Barbarity against Her Subjects ? Do they expe& the Queen should be always shewing Favour, and suspending Her Justice ? It is for God alone, not Kings or Queens to be always pardoning, notwithstanding repeating the Guilt. They are the best Subjects that never stand in need of their Sovereign's Pardon : But it is unaccountable, that any People should think to recommend themselves to their Prince's Favour by offending Her.

I think therefore if I were the best Friend in the World to the Episcopal Interest in Scotland, I would advise them to a quite differing Behaviour, quiet, mild, and peaceable. This would maintain their Interest at Home, and Reputation Abroad. But Tumult, Rabbles and Barbarity will in Time make all their Friends disown 'em, open the Eyes of indifferent People, the Mouths of Enemies ; make their Friends

ashamed to own them, and at last oblige the Government to punish them.

Whether they will take this Hint or no, I know not, neither do I desire it of them ; since if they will bring their Interest to the lowest Ebb imaginable, I shall never quarrel with them about it — But if they have a mind to establish their Interest they must take another way.

I conclude this friendly Hint, with giving them two Notes, which they may be pleased to consider of.

1. These Rabblings are disown'd by the wifest and most politic of their own Friends in Scotland, whose Eyes being open to their own Interest, see that this is the most effectual way to ruine them.
2. Instead of injuring the Church of Scotland, by this Method, they secure, establish, and effectually settle it, by forcing the Government to revive the obsolete Laws, so some People thought them, of their Establishment, rousing the sleeping Lyon, and engaging the Government to assist against the Aggressor, and on this Score, as I gave them a Hint before, with respect to their own Interest ; so if I should speak in behalf of the Church of Scotland, I could do no greater Service to that Church, than to desire those People to go on, to proceed with their Riots and Rabbles, and see where it will end, it is the only way to establish and confirm the Presbyterian Interest. But of this more hereafter.

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